SUTTON: You have had a lot of different kinds of areas you had to work with. Housing, it was a very bad situation because there was no room at all.

CONAWAY: Navy had Baker Hall. Army had Mack Hall. No halls at all, except nurses at Oxley Hall.

SUTTON: At Oxley? Then you had very little room for undergraduates, other than nurses.

CONAWAY: Fraternity houses. 900 living in private homes all over Columbus; we advertised for rooms for girls.

SUTTON: This was really a problem area for several years because I imagine it did not clear up even though the War (World War II) was over.

CONAWAY: When the men were coming back, we had 600 women assigned to Baker Hall because we had no men coming. Veterans came back and they took their cause to court because they (thought) should have it (Baker Hall). They accused me of "beating the bushes" to get girls; we had to do that because we wanted Ohio State to open. We won anyhow. The week I was in court, was Freshman Week and there were all the parents with their daughters in motels up to Delaware, Ohio. Hundreds of parents were bitter at me because they could not be assigned a room; Baker Hall doors were locked, bolted to men and women that week.

SUTTON: When you put the girls in the fraternities since so many were closed anyway, you must have had quite a crew of people to go in and inspect these places.

CONAWAY: We did, we had mostly widows living in these houses because you had to have a director. You couldn't hire help, so the girls had to get up early and set the table and get the meals. (See Supplement). They didn't like that too well and would fight about it; they at 10:30 at night when the girls were due back, I would have to go up to settle the fights.

SUTTON: Sounds like you got a "baptism by fire." You took over as Dean of Women in 1944, so by the time the boys took you to court, this was old stuff. Did it begin to quiet down after a while or did you have these problems on through the '40's and into the '50's?

CONAWAY: Not too bad.
They found out the girls had to be housed and today things are different.
We extended hours to eleven o'clock and to 1 or 2 in the morning if they were going to dances.
We had professional women in charge of the dorms; I would hire them at Deans' Conventions.
In the early '50's, Miss (Kathryn) Hopwood, Associate Dean, and I went to the graduate school and got permission to start a training program for graduate students in Student Personnel Work and now it is a big program.
Am so proud we did that, but we only had women for a while; now it is men and women both.

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SUTTON: I talked with the young man who is in charge of hiring these people now. He gets hundreds of applications, chooses only a few dozen. You started that then back in the '40's? I didn't know that.

CONAWAY:
Miss Hopwood left in 1954; we did it shortly before she left because she was quite interested in an academic program, so thought we could build a good program with the faculty we had right here and we certainly did. Miss Hopwood taught one year (after she got her Ph.D.) and left.

114
SUTTON: Were the courses in psychology and education?
CONAWAY:
Both, it was sponsored by Psychology.
I was on the faculty of Psychology as a lecturer all the time I was here.
Taught courses for training undergraduate students in the dorms.
It was the Student Assistants Program so that there were five freshmen to every (upperclass) trained Student Assistant.
Taught Psychology 581 for many years.
Had seminar for graduate students in Personnel.

130
SUTTON: I thought perhaps Professor (Earl) Anderson in Higher Education was somehow involved.

CONAWAY:
No, it was Psychology; under Harold Burtt, then Bob (Robert) Wherry was next. It was always in Psychology, but they took many education courses.

145
SUTTON: The housing got a little easier to handle when more dormitories were built later. You didn't have parents pressuring you; the problem eased.

CONAWAY:
Yes, indeed, and we built so many dorms while I was there.
The business manager when Jake (Jacob) Taylor was here would let us decide what we wanted and I said, "No more that 250 to a dorm."
When (Gordon) Carson came as Treasurer, that's when we got those Towers which I fought, bled and died against.
So they named half of it for me.

159
SUTTON: (laughs) In tribute to your fight that you lost.
CONAWAY:  
No doubt, but he lost too, he left (the University) too.

163  
SUTTON: One of the things in the materials in your files relates to matters of counseling which I suppose was also more of a problem early in your years as Dean of Women than it was later?

CONAWAY:  
No, I wouldn't say so; it was always with you. We worked with sororities. We built quite an organization for town people, "town girls" we called it. Worked with the Student Affairs Committee, Student Senate, and Women's Self-Government.

177  
SUTTON: The Women's Self-Government Association must have taken allot of your energy.

CONAWAY:  
Yes, it did because it was very important to me. When I came here I worked hard to have the students take the responsibility in their living units to form their government and make their decisions.

186  
SUTTON: In each dorm you had a unit for determining their rules; then you had an over-arching body as well. They would have to meet about more difficult problems.

CONAWAY:  
Once in a while they would appeal what the students had decided (if) they thought it was too harsh.

194  
SUTTON: The girl in the dormitory would appeal against the decision of her dormitory companions and that would then come to the attention of your office.

CONAWAY:  
Mrs. (Rugh Weimer) Mount, I hired for twelve years. Then she took my position when I retired. She was just wonderful and I was thrilled when she was put in charge of men and women both because I thought they must have liked our program. It was quite a compliment. Every fall we would have a meeting of these Student Assistants in all of the dorms; we'd have 150 of these older students trained to work with freshmen so every freshman had a girl they could go to. Had such support for that program and President Fawcett would come and speak to them. Fawcett often asked why the men didn't have it (student assistants); that started when I retires.

228  
SUTTON: Of your 23 years as Dean of Women, what were you most proud of?

CONAWAY:  
We helped the women students assert themselves. Made a study in 1954 with 1500 Freshmen(women), I met with them for six weeks every quarter and I asked them what their grandmothers did, were they
working today or did they ever work; then I'd ask about their mothers; and what they expected to do.

In 1964, I made a second one and showed the difference of how the women had changed in 10 years.

It was phenomenal how much more the mothers were working and the grandmothers even.

I was trying to impress what their future might be as it looked like they would work.

Shirley (Dunlap) Bowser, the Trustee, asked for a copy of this study about 5 or 10 years ago and told me I was so far ahead of my time; she remembered as a student what I had told them.

That is so gratifying.

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SUTTON: The thing you're proudest of is the way you were able to anticipate the needs of these girls as people and help them to grow into what they had to grow into. You also had good reason to be proud of your graduate program. Tell me more about some of the things you did that you are proud of.

CONAWAY:

I can tell you some funny thing.

You know when we had the panty raids?

Was at a Phi Beta Kappa dinner and got a call from the police station that they had one of our girls; I knew her quite well and couldn't believe it.

I left the dinner and went to 15th Avenue and High (Street). Kids had let air out of tires of the police, and two sororities were having a water fight with hoses.

A policeman was soaked with water and took this "wonderful" girl to the police station in just her bathing suit.

Went back to the fraternity house and my youngest son (Larry) came with me to 15th and High and we heard them say, "Onward to Baker (Hall)."

There were hundreds of students.

When the kids saw me they said, "Make way, here comes the Dean" and I just walked right in; they were just having a ball!

After the protests later; those panty raids were nothing, but at that time it was very critical.

About midnight I left Baker Hall and decided to go to 15th and High to see how it was.

At the museum steps were mobs of kids saying, "Go to the Theta House;" that was where the water had come from.

Larry and I drove up to the Ph Phi and Theta Houses and told them to turn out the lights and lock their doors.

The crowd came and a hose was laying in the yard and was picked up and I thought, "Oh, my lovely hat (which she had worn to her daughter's wedding) with all the lovely tulle on it." (Laughs)

They didn't "put it to us" when they saw who was there, they left.

In the meantime, I went to the police station to get Betsy (the student); the police "just laid me down"—wanting to know what I did with those students up there that they act the way they do.

I said, "I know about that, but tell me where she is."

Police, "No, you have to control those students." They were just burned up.

Finally found out her father came and got her.
SUTTON: So she was out already. (Laughs) About what year was that?  
CONAWAY:  
It would have been about '51.

SUTTON: Oh, that far back. The police were not as well-trained as some of them  
have become since; they were not used to that. Now they (police) take  
it in their stride. It was different in the fifties.  
CONAWAY:  
Many times I was called at two or three in the morning that they had one of our  
girls down there.  

SUTTON: Did they expect you to come and bail her out?  
CONAWAY:  
Many times I did; once I put my house down as security for one because I didn't  
have the cash.

SUTTON: Did your office work back and forth with some of the religious organizations?  
CONAWAY:  
I have been to Newman Hall (Center), Hillel Foundation, Indianola Church, Wesley  
Foundation. I would go to all of their (services).

SUTTON: I imagine they would become aware of problems and make you aware of the  
problem and vice versa.  
CONAWAY:  
They were very cooperative and could be quite helpful.  
We also had Mothers' Associations all over the State.  
During the War, I remember going to Youngstown on the Sleeper (train) because  
you didn't have gasoline to drive.

SUTTON: That was an active group in Youngstown.  
CONAWAY:  
Yes, and Springfield, Dayton, and Cleveland; I still go twice a year to the  
Mothers' Meeting.  
I started with them in 1937 in the College of the Arts; Joe (Joseph) Park had  
the men's association and he wanted me to take the women's.

SUTTON: That's how it got started; even before you were in the Dean of Women's  
Office. You took it with you.  
CONAWAY:  
I was a counselor in the College of Arts and Sciences; then Secretary of the  
College for two years before I was Dean.

SUTTON: You were Secretary there while Howard Hamilton was in the Navy and then  
you moved on to be Dean of Women even before he came back.  
CONAWAY:  
Yes, one of the faculty men succeeded me as Secretary.
SUTTON: The reason I asked about the counseling; in the last 20 - 30 years the University has developed more ways of being helpful to students through counseling services. Assume your relation to counseling in the Dean's Office was changed a bit through the years.

CONAWAY:
We referred many students to Counseling and Health Services. The Director of Counseling and the Director of Health Services were on the same staff in that area - we all had the same boss, Bill (William) Guthrie.
Dick (Richard) Larkins was there for sports and intramurals.
Mel (Frank Milford) Fletcher for Psychology was in charge of Counseling.
We were very conversant with all of the people in these areas.

SUTTON: Sounds like the program you developed for training counselors in the dormitories served also for building yourself a network that you would have to have to keep going smoothly. Maybe you had the network and that is what made the training program possible, but the two did work together.

CONAWAY:
Very close.
Financial Aids; I was on the Board for that and worked with the Alumnae Scholarship Houses.

SUTTON: It sounds like the only boards you weren't on were the Graduate Council and the Council on Academic Affairs.

CONAWAY:
I was for awhile, then they put us (Dean of Men and Dean of Women) off the Faculty Council and the Council on Academic Affairs.

SUTTON: You had to be in everything, quite literally. You were very fortunate and wise in the choice of the people to work with you because you would need all kinds of support.

CONAWAY:
Oh, I had wonderful people.
Mary Gordon was the only one who had worked with Dean (Esther) Gaw; she was in charge of off-campus housing.
Jane McCormick worked with sororities.
Ruth Weimer Mount worked with town girls, Mothers' Clubs, and counseling and Kathryn (Cass) Hopwood.
Either Miss Hopwood or Miss Weimer would decide what was to be done.
During the War, we had a lot of problems about the... (See Supplement).

SUTTON: You had three different bosses, Bland Stradley whom you had worked with first in the College Office and then he moved in to be Vice President about the time you became Dean of Women; then Bill Guthrie for a number of years and near the end, John Bonner. I know all three of them are rather different people; that must have made some difference in how your office operated.

CONAWAY:
I will say they were quite different.
I am reluctant to say too much, because John Bonner was impossible. He did not know one thing about personnel work; I am sorry to say that. I went to the President about three different times and said, "I resign." He said not to do that; we will work on Bonner and he will be different; we're being hard on him.

Nothing ever happened.

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SUTTON: You didn't have that problem with either of the others. Guthrie was very aware of personnel work.

CONAWAY:
Indeed he (Guthrie) was and very supportive. People could come to me and we would say you can't do it; they would go to Bonner and he'd say, "Fine, go ahead."

I can feel my temperature going up; it was hideous!
Guthrie and Stradley were so cooperative and understood what we were trying to do.

116
SUTTON: May I ask what kinds of things were these where a third of your bosses wouldn't back you?

CONAWAY:
Practically anything.
When a group of students wanted to go on a camp weekend, we said they had to have a faculty person with them. Bonner would say, "Oh, feel free and go."
The Dean of Men and I heard a case of a couple where the girl lived in a rooming house, but was sleeping with her boyfriend at his place and the rooming house girls complained.
Her Rabbi called us and said not to do anything about it as she was a nice girl. She had broken University rules so we asked to have them dismissed. Bonner did not go along with it because he got pressured from the Rabbi and as a result they were not dismissed.

153
SUTTON: Administratively it is difficult to deal with on your part. I gather you could make me a long list of such circumstances.

CONAWAY:
I sure could; I never had that with Guthrie or Stradley.
It would get so that I thought I couldn't do it another day.

173
SUTTON: How many years did this last?

CONAWAY:
From 1961 to 1967.

174
SUTTON: Six years.

CONAWAY:
Yes, I went to Fawcett and he was quite aware of it, but nothing happened.

179
SUTTON: Can you guess why nothing happened?

CONAWAY:
Bonner was quite a "savorer-upper". He was so important.
He never dreamed he'd ever have that kind of job.
He was teaching economics but had a Ph.D. in speech.
Economics severed and he could not go back there to teach.
Made Rotary because of his job.
We, whole staff, met in his office every Monday and we had to hurry because he
couldn't miss Rotary.
To me that was so childish.
I hate to have this recorded.

205
SUTTON: We will simply restrict the tape, so that it won't be out. We will ask
you later to sign a piece of paper giving this tape to the University
which we have to do legally or else it is not ours. Then you can
place a restriction on it.
CONAWAY:
That would be good because I don't like to have it in the record.
It's all gone; he's gone. (Tape shuts off).
He would introduce me beautifully and I thought, "To hell with you."

216
SUTTON: You had to deal with a number of colleges, I suspect you dealt more
with the College of Education and College of Arts and Sciences.
CONAWAY:
And Commerce.
I was pleased to think my background was not only in personnel, but I knew the
faculty in the College of Arts as Secretary.
They were so good about calling me if they had any problems.

264
SUTTON: I heard rumors that someone who was in the College of Commerce Office
was more difficult to deal with than some of the other people we were
speaking of.
CONAWAY:
(Charles) Wells Reeder was Secretary of the Faculty there.
Did you know Dean (Walter C.) Weidler?

271
Sutton: No. I didn't happen to know him.
CONAWAY:
He was the first cousin of my mother's; I knew him so well that I could call
him easily.

275
SUTTON: This made things very easy. This was a great advantage you had, you
were either related to or had known from way back before most everybody.
CONAWAY:
I grew up on the Campus, as a kid, then as a student.
My husband went to Ohio State.

283
SUTTON: I think this would be enormously helpful for a person who is trying to
deal with all the intangibles you were dealing with.
CONAWAY:
I had only gotten a B.A. at Ohio State.
My husband was in an accident and was in the hospital 9 months with a broken neck.
I was 35 and I thought what in the world was I going to do.
I had a major in English, not to teach.
Was offered 5 jobs; one was from Lew (James Lewis) Morrill, we were real good friends.
I went to Lew to find out about graduate school at Ohio State and he asked me what I wanted to do and I said I had never thought about it.
When I was a student I worked with the Dean of Women and that job would appeal to me.
He said that was the next worst job on Campus next to the football coach.
Stradley called me two weeks after (my husband died in June and I talked to Morrill) and offered me a job as counselor in the College of Arts.
Lew Morrill had told him and Prexy Thompson had said I was the most outstanding girl who had been on the Campus.
Started August 2nd as a counselor knowing nothing about it.
I loved it.
That year the School of Optometry and Journalism moved to the College of the Arts and they decided since I didn't know anything about anything I could take those because nobody else knew them.
Counselled the journalism and optometry students.
Two weeks ago I went to see the building named for Mr. (Glenn) Fry in optometry because he and I worked so closely together in the College of the Arts.

364
SUTTON: You did finish a Master's Degree in Psychology while serving as counselor?
CONAWAY:
That's right, had 3 children, a sick mother, and a maid.
For three years I made $1595 a year; you survive somehow.

379
SUTTON: Then you moved on, after a few years, to being Secretary.
CONAWAY:
Yes, that was a big step!
$3000 per year; got a new suit and a long dress right away.

387
SUTTON: No hat?
CONAWAY:
No, I had hats.
When I became Dean of Women I got $4000.

394
SUTTON: (laughs heartily) I noticed a folder in you files that had to do with a discrimination policy. There must have been some problems in the '50's and '60's over discrimination in the dormitories. (See Supplement)
CONAWAY:
There was quite a to-do about it.
In Canfield Hall we were accused of putting only Jewish girls in one hallway.
The Director of Canfield said yes they had a hallway like that because they (the Jewish girls) all put down they wanted to live there their sophomore year.
Then we had trouble about blacks; the first ones were in Neil Hall and parents called and said they didn't want their daughter living there (if blacks were there).
Once a faculty member called because we wouldn't let this black girl live in the
dorm.

I told her it was a "premium" to live in the dorm; everybody had to have a 2.0 point hour or they could not live there no matter what color she was. She did not have a 2.0.

Trying to encourage better scholarship in all dorms.

We got where we had black and white in every dorm and some of the parents were not happy.

Black parents came in because their daughter had visited her white roommate's home over a holiday and now their daughter wanted to bring the white girl home to her house and the parents didn't like that. They said there was too much difference between the cultures.

485

SUTTON: You weren't going to win for losing were you? So...
SUPPLEMENT

GOERLER: Please discuss problems you faced during World War II with married servicemen and single women on the campus.

CONAWAY:

Trained 2400 girls from Lockbourne Airbase to be hostesses. Needed to have chaperones to make certain that all of the girls returned to the base in the evening. More female students than male on the campus. Servicemen were in dormitories and many were married. Girls did not know who was married.

From 15th Avenue north, the army were in fraternity houses. From 15th Avenue South, women were in fraternity houses. Meals were provided in some of the fraternity houses. There was not enough help and girls had to work there.

GOERLER: You wanted to make clear the rules concerning assignment of people to dormitories in order to shed light on issues of discrimination.

CONAWAY: Freshman were assigned roommates. Sophomores decided themselves where they wanted to live and with whom. Frequently sophomore Jewish and black girls chose other Jews or blacks as roommates.

GOERLER: Please mention the sources you frequently used to hire directors of your dormitories.

CONAWAY
Attended conventions of Deans of Women. Syracuse University had an excellent training program. Also, many were hired from Berkeley, Stanford, and elsewhere. The experience of Syracuse University prompted OSU to develop its own training program.

END OF TAPE